

In The Claims:

1. (original) A reinforcing fiber having an applied chemical treatment, wherein said applied chemical treatment is applied as an aqueous treatment comprising an emulsified epoxy resin, a polyurethane dispersion, at least one curing agent, a thickener, water, and a filler.
2. (original) The product of claim 1 wherein said applied chemical treatment is dried.
3. (original) The product of claim 1 wherein said thickener comprises a water soluble polymer.
4. (original) The product of claim 1 wherein said thickener comprises an acrylamide polymer.
5. (currently amended) The product of claim 1 wherein said thickener comprises Drewfloc 270 acrylamide thickener.
6. (currently amended) The product of claim 1 wherein said emulsified epoxy resin comprises Epirez 3456 emulsified epoxy resin.
7. (currently amended) The product of claim 1 wherein said polyurethane dispersion comprises Witcobond W290H polyurethane dispersion dispersed in water.
8. (original) The product of claim 1 wherein the applied chemical treatment comprises a mixed aromatic amine curing agent and a cyanoguanidine curing agent.

9. (currently amended) The product of claim 8 wherein said mixed aromatic amine curing agent comprises Epicure 3253 and said cyanoguanidine curing agent comprises Amicure CG 1400 cyanoguanidine curing agent.

10. (original) The product of claim 1 wherein said filler is selected from the group consisting of a calcium carbonate filler, a silicon dioxide filler, and an aluminum trihydrate filler.

11. (original) The product of claim 2 wherein the reinforcing fiber forms a strand having said applied chemical treatment.

12. (original) A reinforcing fiber mat comprising a plurality of said reinforcing fibers of claim 11.

13. (original) A composite comprising a polymer matrix and said reinforcing fiber mat of claim 12.

14. (original) The product of claim 1 wherein said filler comprises a calcium carbonate filler.

15. (currently amended) The product of claim 14 wherein said calcium carbonate filler comprises Georgia Marble Calwhite II calcium carbonate filler.

16. (original) The product of claim 1 wherein said filler comprises between approximately 10 and 40% by weight of said applied chemical treatment.

17. (original) The product of claim 1 wherein said filler comprises between approximately 15 and 25% by weight of said applied chemical treatment.

18. (original) A method for reducing surface fiber prominence in a reinforced composite part made from an epoxy urethane string binder, the method comprising the step of introducing a filler in a first amount to an aqueous chemical treatment bath, wherein said aqueous chemical treatment bath is used to apply a chemical treatment to a fibrous substrate that forms the epoxy urethane string binder.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein said first amount of said filler is between approximately 10 and 40 percent of the weight of said chemical treatment bath.

20. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein said first amount of said filler is between approximately 15 and 25 percent of the weight of said chemical treatment bath.

21. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein said filler is a calcium carbonate filler.

22. (new) A string binder comprising:
a reinforcing fiber; and
a chemical treatment applied to said reinforcing fiber, wherein said applied chemical treatment is applied as an aqueous treatment comprising an emulsified epoxy resin, a polyurethane dispersion, at least one curing agent, a thickener, water, and a filler.

23. (new) The string binder of claim 22, wherein said applied chemical treatment is dried.

24. (new) The string binder of claim 22 wherein said thickener comprises a water soluble polymer.

Al 25. (new) The string binder of claim 1 wherein said thickener comprises an acrylamide polymer.

26. (new) The string binder of claim 22 wherein said thickener comprises Drewfloc 270 acrylamide thickener.

27. (new) The string binder of claim 22 wherein said emulsified epoxy resin comprises Epirez 3456 emulsified epoxy resin.

28. (new) The string binder of claim 22 wherein said polyurethane dispersion comprises Witcobond W290H polyurethane dispersion dispersed in water.

29. (new) The string binder of claim 22 wherein the applied chemical treatment comprises a mixed aromatic amine curing agent and a cyanoguanidine curing agent.

30. (new) The string binder of claim 29 wherein said mixed aromatic amine curing agent comprises Epicure 3253 and said cyanoguanidine curing agent comprises Amicure CG 1400 cyanoguanidine curing agent.

31. (new) The string binder of claim 22 wherein said filler is selected from the group consisting of a calcium carbonate filler, a silicon dioxide filler, and an aluminum trihydrate filler.

32. (new) The string binder of claim 23 wherein the reinforcing fiber forms a strand having said applied chemical treatment.

33. (new) A reinforcing fiber mat comprising a plurality of said reinforcing fibers of claim 32.

AI 34. (new) A composite comprising a polymer matrix and said reinforcing fiber mat of claim 33.

35. (new) The string binder of claim 22 wherein said filler comprises a calcium carbonate filler.

36. (new) The string binder of claim 35 wherein said calcium carbonate filler comprises Georgia Marble Calwhite II calcium carbonate filler.

37. (new) The string binder of claim 22 wherein said filler comprises between approximately 10 and 40% by weight of said applied chemical treatment.

38. (new) The string binder of claim 22 wherein said filler comprises between approximately 15 and 25% by weight of said applied chemical treatment.
